Resolution 2017-02: Urging The Hawai`i State Legislature To Pass Legislation To Fund The Final Segment Of The Honolulu Rail Project

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai`i passed a Resolution that supported the construction of the “environmentally sound modern steel rail rapid transit system” at the 2010 Democratic Party of Hawai`i State Convention and support for mass transit can be found in the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/REFORM as well as the TRANSPORTATION planks of our 2016 Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform; therefore, be it

Whereas, That the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i recognizes that the City & County of Honolulu only has enough funding to complete construction from East Kapolei to Middle Street and the federal Full Funding Grant Agreement, which provides $1.55 Billion in Federal Tax-dollars for the construction, requires that the rail system to go from East Kapolei to Ala Moana; and be it

Whereas, That the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i understands that if the City & County of Honolulu does not complete the Honolulu rail system as laid out in the federal Full Funding Grant Agreement the City & County of Honolulu may be required to refund the Federal Government the portion of the $1.55 Billion they have already received and spent on the Honolulu rail project; and be it

Whereas, That the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i recognizes that the Honolulu rail project will provide the residents of the Leeward coast, Ewa plain, and all along the rail route a reliable transit alternative to the traffic stricken H-1 freeway; and be it

Whereas, That the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i understands that the Honolulu rail transit will provide economic opportunities along the rail route from the new businesses to the construction of transit oriented development, which will benefit everyone across the state from the General Excise Taxes the State will collect; and be it

Whereas, That the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i recognizes that the Honolulu rail project will also help address the housing shortage that is facing the City and County of Honolulu because of the transit oriented development; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i urges the Hawai`i state legislature to pass legislation for appropriate funding sources to complete the Middle Street to Ala Moana segment of the Honolulu Rapid Transit System during the 2017 Special Session; and finally be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai`i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai`i, and all members of the Hawai`i State Legislatures who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i.

Passed by the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i on August 19, 2017